MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection to allow a half-hour debate on this."

Supply of oil engines through hire-purchase system.

* 1300 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of oil engines supplied through hire-purchase system in the State during 1952–53 and 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) 1952–53—189 oil engines.

1953–54—6 oil engines supplied so far.

611 oil engines proposed to be supplied before 30th June 1954."

Import of sugar in 1953.

* 1301 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of sugar from foreign countries received in this State in 1953;

(*b*) the agencies through which sugar was distributed for sale in this State; and

(*c*) the amount of sales tax collected on the sale of sugar during the year 1953?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 37,423 tons.

" (*b*) Co-operative Societies and private merchants.

" (*c*) Rs. 5,50,409."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" ஸார், சர்க்கரை விலை அதிகமாக இருப்பதால் அதைக் குறைப்பதற்கு வெளி நாடுகளிலிருந்து சர்க்கரையை இறக்குமதி செய்யப்பட்டுவருகிறது. அப்படி இறக்குமதி செய்யப்படும்போது ஏற்கெனவே வியாபாரம் செய்துகொண்டுவந்த அதே வியாபாரிகளுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் வழங்கப்பட்டதா அல்லது புதிய வியாபாரிகளுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் வழங்கப்பட்டதா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, it is the Central Government's responsibility and the responsibility of the Regional Director of Food to undertake this distribution of sugar. It has been given to Co-operative Societies and private merchants who were dealing in sugar previously."

Strength of the staff of the Public Works Department Workshop, Madras.

* 1302 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of employees and the staff working in the Public Works Department Workshop, Madras;

(*b*) the annual establishment charges;